

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ACDA-12 /132 W
-----070166 190514Z /15

R 180943Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2714
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2223

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG KS BC
SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN BELGRADE: ROK ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) SEOUL 6001, (B) GABORONE 2200

1. GOB OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY EXT AFF MIN MOGWE, WHO WILL ATTEND BELGRADE MEETING, CONSIDER KOREA ISSUE PERIPHERAL TO THEIR PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS AND HAVE TOLD US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OF THEIR DISTASTE FOR CONSTANT LOBBYING BY BOTH ROK AND DPRK OFFICIALS. AT TIMES MOGWE HAS APPEARED TO AGREE WITH NORTH KOREAN LINE THAT ROK IS DEPENDENT ON US FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, HE HAS NEVER SWALLOWED THE "ROK AS US PUPPET" LINE TO THE EXTENT OF TILTING GOB POLICY TOWARD DPRK. IN FACT, MOGWE HIMSELF VISITED ROK EARLIER THIS YEAR, IN PART TO BALANCE 1976 VISIT TO DPRK BY PRESIDENT KHAMA. AFTER THEIR TRIP TO NORTH KOREA, PRESIDENT KHAMA AND HIS PARTY WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN "APPALLED" BY ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND RAMPANT "CULT OF PERSONALITY" IN NORTH KOREA.

2. WE BELIEVE GOB WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE BALANCED POSITION
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BETWEEN ROK AND DPRK AND THAT IT WILL TEND TO SUPPORT MEASURES WHICH WOULD KEEP KOREA ISSUE FROM AGAIN BEING RAISED IN UN CONTEXT. FOR THESE REASONS, BOTSWANA MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO ENTER RESERVATION TO KOREA RESOLUTION WHICH MAY BE PROPOSED BY YUGOSLAVIA.

3. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ROK HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY APPROACHED

GOB TO REQUEST THAT RESERVATION BE ENTERED (PARA 1, REF A).
MOGWE IS REPORTEDLY STILL IN EUROPE FOR TALKS WITH EEC GOVERN-
MENTS ON BEEF AND WILL NOT RETURN TO GABORONE BEFORE BELGRADE
CONFERENCE (REF B), ALTHOUGH HE MAY JOIN GOB DELEGATION AT
KHARTOUM LATER THIS WEEK. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND
ROK APPROACH TO MOGWE ON KOREA IN EUROPE IF POSSIBLE, OR BY
USG IN KHARTOUM SHOULD HE ARRIVE BEFORE CONCLUSION OF OAU
SUMMIT. (REF B REPORTS BOTSWANA DELEGATION DESIRE FOR
BRIEFING BY US EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM.) F APPROACH IS MADE,
WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT IT BE LOW KEY AND REFLECT GOB
SENSITIVITY TO MORE HEAVY HANDED LOBBYING ON KOREA.
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